

CHAPTER NO. 703

SENATE BILL NO. 2990

**By Cooper, Dixon, Miller, Henry, Williams, Trail, Davis, Graves, Burks, Crutchfield,  
Haynes, Crowe, Mr. Speaker Wilder**

**Substituted for: House Bill No. 3015**

**By Kisber, Arriola, Overbey, Armstrong, Tindell, Newton, McDonald, Kent, Brenda Turner,  
Hargett**

AN ACT To amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 2, relative to providing aid to senior citizens for certain purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-2-105, is amended by adding the following language as a new subsection (c) and by redesignating present subsection (c) as subsection (d):

(c)(1) In addition to the powers, responsibilities and duties granted to the commission, the commission shall initiate an outreach program to provide Medicare-eligible Tennesseans information and education relative to obtaining prescription drugs at a discounted cost, and obtaining prescription drugs through programs based upon an individual's income. Education and information shall include, but not be limited to the availability of:

(A) Prescription drugs through patient assistance programs offered by pharmaceutical manufacturers;

(B) Prescription drug coverage for individuals who are eligible for TennCare, Veterans Administration programs, Medicare supplemental policies and any other program that provides such coverage; and

(C) Prescription discount cards or information on how to access other programs that provide discounted prescription drugs to eligible participants.

(2) Minimally, such outreach shall include:

(A) Assistance in the implementation of a program to assist Medicare-eligible persons in processing the necessary documents in order to participate in the programs in subdivision (1);

(B) A toll-free number manned during business hours to provide information regarding the programs outlined in subdivision (1);

(C) A website or referral to website links that provide information regarding the programs outlined in subdivision (1); and

(D) Presentations to senior groups regarding the availability of the programs outlined in subdivision (1).

(3) The commission shall implement the outreach program within the commission's available resources.

(4) The commission may delegate any or all such responsibilities to a private or public contractor.

(5) The commission is authorized to make application for grants to fund programs set out in subdivision (1) above.

(6) The commission may adopt rules in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in Title 4, Chapter 5, to implement this act.

(7) The commission shall file a report with the Senate Commerce, Labor and Agriculture Committee and the House Health and Human Resources Committee by February 15, 2003, and annually thereafter by February 15. The report shall include, but not be limited to:

(A) The pharmacy assistance programs which were available;

(B) The outcome of each program by county and population served;

(C) What agency, contractor, or personnel provided the services;

(D) The number and location of presentations made to senior groups; and

(E) The commission's opinion as to the effectiveness of the program and any recommendations for revision, continuation, expansion or termination of such outreach program.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: April 24, 2002

  
JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 2002

  
DON SUNDQUIST, GOVERNOR